

**White House Conference on Aging-Independent Aging Agenda Event
“Solutions Forum”
POST EVENT SUMMARY REPORT**

Name of Event: White House Conference on Aging-Independent Aging Agenda Event “Solutions Forum”
Date of Event: July 25, 2005 **Location of event:** Guernsey County Senior Center, Cambridge, OH
Number of Persons attending: 123 **Sponsoring Organization(s):** Area Agency on Aging, Region 9
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Priority Issue	Priority Issue
Caregiver Support-Includes support of caregivers from employers & caregiving & support system	Senior Housing-Includes Senior Housing Options
Barriers	Barriers
Lack of awareness of the issue among employers Lack of understanding the issue & benefits of caregiver support Lack of resources to educate & support the employer Lack of adequate caregiver relief & respite care Limited or lack of Local, State & Federal Funding	Lack of affordable housing Lack of awareness in the community Lack of new housing developments in rural communities Lack of design consideration for older living
Proposed Solutions	Proposed Solutions
Educate Businesses on value of caregiver support Promote respite care for caregivers More outreach to get individuals to volunteer to provide respite care	Small Congregate Housing Educate communities on lack of resources for upcoming aging population
Priority Issue	Priority Issue
Transportation-A quality transportation system that serves the aging population & also service advancements versus operational costs	Quality In-Home Care Workers Shortage Caring work ethic versus “paycheck” – compassion Decreased turnover of staff and consumers Increased knowledge/understanding and improved/enhanced caregiving skills Need for more programs such as the Council on Aging Learning Advantages program
Barriers	Barriers
Limited funding Rural Counties: Lower socio-economic & lower tax “pool” base High cost of door-to-door, on-demand transportation Few incentives & several disincentives to coordinate existing fleets (regulations, laws, insurance, liability, restrictions)	Lack of training funding available Low wage scales Few resources available for education training Costs
Proposed Solutions	Proposed Solutions
Increased outreach to older adults Transportation for older adults to & from apartment buildings Transportation in rural communities	More opportunity/resources for education Higher pay scale for In-Home Care Workers

Priority Issue	Priority Issue
Identity Theft, Exploitation & Elder Abuse Identity fraud rising at alarming rates, the percentage of abuse has risen tremendously and due to fear-many cases are not reported (in homes as well as nursing homes), most seniors are trusting individuals-an easy mark for a con-artist – i.e. covering a blacktop driveway with a coat of black paint and charge for resurfacing.	Income-Social Security checks are not meeting the cost of living for many seniors. Many have difficulty making ends meet, poverty is high among widows, fixed incomes erode when unexpected bills arrive, savings rate is lowest in decades (Baby Boomer issue)
Barriers	Barriers
Lack of awareness & education on the subjects Low risk & light penalties for “white collar crime” against older adults Insufficient community awareness for avoidance	Lack of income or other resources Lack of awareness by individuals & community Too little financial planning is done by the average person; what is done is often later in life People don’t want to think about/talk about financial matters-even with children
Proposed Solutions	Proposed Solutions
Action on internet scams Encourage shredding documents Penalties for abuse against older adults	Protection of pensions Review property tax laws – age 65+ Notch-year remedy – Social Security Review marriage penalty in retirement Revisit retirement off-sets & wind fall eliminations
Priority Issue	Priority Issue
Creating a Senior Friendly Business Environment- As our population ages, businesses will need to adjust their store layout, their product line(s) and how they deal with the older customer. Products located on high shelves, make them hard to identify and hard to reach.	Long-Term Care and Home & Community Based Care Following Hospital Stays-As life spans increase so does the likelihood of disability and need for care-“long-term living”, most prefer community-based options offering independence. This is an area that we are lacking: a lot of people need follow-up education and assessment before going to the physicians office, many people slip through the cracks as evidenced by returning to the Emergency Department and/or re-admits to the hospital.
Barriers	Barriers
Lack of awareness as a problem by business operators, employers & older adults Lack of training for staff AND consumers on expectations & practices Cost of making & keeping senior-friendly changes Lack of education on how to provide better consumer & employee environment s	You must be home-bound to be eligible for home health services through Medicare Most caregivers not prepared or able to provide post-hospital medical care Lack of Education-knowledge about available programs & resources Few resources available to improve care & understanding
Proposed Solutions	Proposed Solutions
Customer service training on dealing with the elderly population Shopping Assistance Educating employees on being courteous	Outreach-Hospice More opportunity for education Emphasis on preventative hospital admissions

Priority Issue	Priority Issue
Health, Medication Management & Disease Management-Many families end up caring for a friend, family member, etc. who took risks with their health or life and lost-smoking, drinking, substance abuse, hazardous occupations, sports, obesity. We are becoming a TV or electronic game society of separate individuals instead of an active outdoor society with social contact. Emergency department visits and hospital admissions are reduced for patients provided with education and follow-up for a specific disease process, resulting in reducing health care costs.	Future of Home Delivered Meals & Senior Nutrition Programs-Home-Delivered Meals has seen an increase in requests for services. Increasing preparation costs (food, insurance, wages)
Barriers	Barriers
Elements of our “modern” Boomer society encourage living to the fullest now instead of planning for later years Lack of both individual and community planning & preparation (short & long-term)	Baby Boomers: More choices, selections, more “gourmet” Increased food, gasoline, supplies & packaging costs sharply above inflation rates Funding limited or declining in value, no increases in tax-generated funding
Proposed Solutions	Proposed Solutions
Promote individual and business planning for future health care needs Education on specific health care issues to patients before they progress to major medical situations	Work on changing image of congregate meals More (different) meal choices, more gourmet menu
Priority Issue	Priority Issue
Influx of Baby Boomer Generations: Senior Centers: Baby Boomers vs. Previous Generations-Baby Boomers-More active, working later in life, desire more options and choices, Serving “multiple aging generations” and their differing cultures, more working seniors demanding more “after work” activities & programs, like evenings & weekends.	Economic needs of aging-Decisions between paying for drugs needed to maintain health or paying for an adequate diet to support good health and emotional status, key consumer items outpacing inflation-medications, housing, gasoline, home heating fuels, high cost and high risk of home maintenance & repair (age of housing stock, reliable vendors), stock & bond market declines, low returns on CDs and money market, impact on retirement portfolios and pension plans.
Barriers	Barriers
Lack of research & training to prepare senior center leadership Limited/lack of Local, State and Federal funding Lack of statewide program continuity or universal plan organization & development Lack of new innovative programs & services to meet changing consumer needs	Decreased buying power of dollar resulted in too little nest egg for realistic comfortable retirement Few opportunities to enhance income late in life
Proposed Solutions	Proposed Solutions
Fluctuating and/or extending Senior Center hours to include some nights and weekends Increased motivation & funding for more outside & inside activities & interests Sensitivity to cultural & multi generational needs	State negotiations for economical prescription coverage Retraining for applicable job market Educate individuals on the need to put more money into their retirement plans

Priority Issue	Priority Issue
Addictions-Includes addictions to alcohol, gambling, marijuana and substance abuse	Vocation/Avocation Investment setbacks, trends include re-careering, many will need/want to work longer Good news/bad news; Longer lives can mean outliving resources
Barriers	Barriers
Inadequate restrictions by State, Federal, and Local government Very attractive escapes form the realities of their lives or lost dreams Lack of community education concerning the depth of the problem Pretty fines or slap on the wrist penalties for 2 nd , 3 rd or worse offenses	Little thought about retirement life Lack of meaningful jobs/no lack or volunteer opportunities Lack of knowledge of programs, options, resources Uncertain/changing economy
Proposed Solutions	Proposed Solutions
Additional education on promotions Increased activities to combat loneliness & depression	Education regarding available programs & resources
Priority Issue	Priority Issue
Death/Dying Hospice is available, but sometimes difficult to incorporate into existing programs, few aware of advance directives	Widowhood Many lose a spouse on whom they were dependent in some significant way & don't know how to take on the responsibility. Females most commonly the survivor, may be at cultural or economic disadvantage due to structure of our society & systems.
Barriers	Barriers
Denial/avoidance are powerful forces to overcome Public opinion is polarized Religion Awareness/Openness/Discussion seems taboo	Lack of recognition for importance of socialization activities, hobbies, community interests, etc Lack of shared responsibility for household & social roles, like bill paying, managing finances to meet needs, investment strategies
Proposed Solutions	Proposed Solutions
Outreach Hospice Education	Mutual financial management training Referral resource education for providers Educating people on the importance of separate interest
Priority Issue	Priority Issue
Attitude Adjustments toward All Elderly Some of the poorer white & black elderly already feel they are discards of society. They feel that whatever happens to them doesn't matter.	Religious Rights of the Elderly "Church versus State" should not be a barrier Many older people have been in church all their lives & have strong beliefs
Barriers	Barriers
Lack of awareness of attitude problems Lack of education on the issues Lack of compassion for others	Lack of awareness-Understanding of the religious rights issues Lack of education-Information for leaders & community
Proposed Solutions	Proposed Solutions
Educating communities on the elderly population Opportunity for elderly involvement in community	Educating community leaders on Religious Rights of the elderly

